IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2, 12-13, 19 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer as shown in the attached sheets.

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number.

1. (Amended) A lens array unit comprising:

a first lens array provided with a plurality of first convex lenses and a first transparent holder formed integral with the first lenses, each of the first lenses having first and second lens surfaces;

a second lens array provided with a plurality of second convex lenses and a second transparent holder formed integral with the second lenses, each of the second lenses having third and fourth lens surfaces, the second lens array being separate from the first lens array and attached to the first lens array so that the third lens surfaces face the second lens surfaces; and

a light shield mounted on the first lens array and provided with a plurality of through-holes facing the first lens surfaces;

wherein the light shield is located on a side of the first lens array located away from the second lens array.

2. (Amended) The lens array unit according to claim 1, wherein the first and second lens surfaces of the first lens array are convex in opposite directions, the third and fourth lens surfaces of the second lens array being also convex in opposite directions.

12. (Amended) A lens array unit comprising:

a lens array provided with a plurality of lenses and a transparent holder formed integral with the lenses, each of the lenses having a first convex lens surface for incidence of light and a second lens surface; and

a light shield formed with a plurality of through-holes facing the first lens surfaces;

wherein the light shield is arranged on a side of the lens array where the first convex lens surfaces are formed.

13. (Amended) A lens array unit comprising:

a first lens array provided with a plurality of first convex lenses arranged in a line, each of the first lenses having first and second lens surfaces;

a second lens array provided with a plurality of second convex lenses arranged in a line, each of the second lenses having third and fourth lens surfaces, at least either one of the third and fourth lens surfaces being convex, the second lens array being separate from the first lens array and attached to the first lens array so that the third lens surfaces face the second lens surfaces; and

light shielding means for partially covering said at least either one of the third and the fourth lens surfaces of each second lens which is convex.

19. (Amended) A lens array comprising:

a plurality of lenses arranged in a line and each having a convex lens surface; and

light shielding means for partially covering the convex lens surface;

wherein the convex lens surface includes peripheral portions spaced from each other along said line, the light shielding means covering the peripheral portions.

20. (Amended) A method of forming an image of an object, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a lens array unit which includes a first lens array provided with first lenses and a second lens array provided with second lenses, the first lens array being arranged closer to said object than the second lens array is, each of the second lenses having a light inlet surface and a light outlet surface, at least either one of the light inlet surface and the light outlet surface being convex; and

partially shielding said at least either one of the light inlet surface and the light outlet surface which is convex for adjusting brightness of light spots formed along a predetermined focal line.